I CLAIM:

1. A children's ride-on vehicle, comprising:

a body;

a plurality of wheels mounted rotatably on the body and including at least one steerable wheel; and

a steering assembly coupled to the body and configured to steer the at least one steerable wheel, the steering assembly comprising:

a steering mechanism configured to interface with a child steering the vehicle,

a steering column coupled to the steering mechanism and including a proximal portion and a shoulder extending transversely from the proximal portion, and

a linkage mechanism adapted to couple the steering column to the steerable wheel, the linkage mechanism including a receiver structure configured to receive the steering column from a direction and a retainer mechanism configured to engage the shoulder so that movement of the steering column in a direction generally opposing the direction is restricted.

2. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 1, wherein the steering column bends distal to the shoulder to define a distal segment, the distal segment being received by the receiver structure.

3. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 2, wherein the distal segment extends at least substantially parallel to the proximal portion.

4. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 1, wherein the receiver structure is an opening.

5. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 1, wherein the plurality of wheels includes a plurality of steerable wheels, and further wherein the linkage mechanism includes a spanning member that extends perpendicular to the proximal portion of the steering column and couples to the plurality of steerable wheels, and wherein the spanning member defines the receiver structure.

6. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 5, wherein the spanning member defines opposing first and second flanking spatial regions adjacent the spanning member, the steering column being configured to be received by the receiver structure from the first region, and wherein the retainer mechanism includes a surface disposed in the first region and configured to engage the steering column if the steering column is urged generally opposite to the direction.

7. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 1, which further comprises a motorized drive assembly coupled to one or more of the plurality of wheels and adapted to propel the vehicle.

8. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 1, wherein the retainer mechanism is formed at least substantially of plastic.

9. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 1, wherein the retainer mechanism includes a pair of retainer elements configured to be assembled manually, without the use of tools.

10. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 9, wherein the retainer elements include a tab and a slot, and wherein the retainer elements are configured to be assembled by placing the tab in the slot and urging the retainer elements together.

11. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 9, wherein the retainer elements are adapted to produce a visual indication that the retainer elements are assembled properly.

12. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 9, wherein the retainer elements are adapted to produce an audible indication that the retainer elements are assembled properly.

13. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 9, wherein the retainer elements are adapted to be snap-fit together.

14. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 10, wherein the retainer elements include a plurality of tabs and at least a corresponding plurality of slots.

15. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 5, wherein the retainer mechanism includes a plurality of retainer elements, and further wherein the plurality of retainer elements includes the spanning member.

16. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 15, wherein the plurality of retainer elements further includes a cap adapted to be manually coupled to the spanning member over the shoulder to restrict movement of the steering column in a direction generally opposing the direction.

17. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 16, wherein the cap and the spanning member include a plurality of tabs and slots that are respectively adapted to be engaged with each other by inserting the tabs through the slots to couple the cap to the spanning member.

18. A children's ride-on vehicle, comprising:

a body;

a plurality of wheels mounted rotatably on the body and including at least one steerable wheel; and

a steering assembly coupled to the body and configured to steer the steerable wheel, the steering assembly comprising:

a steering mechanism configured to interface with a child steering the vehicle,

a steering column coupled to the steering mechanism, and

a linkage mechanism that is adapted to couple the steering column to the steerable wheel, the linkage mechanism including a spanning member and a retainer mechanism, the spanning member extending at least substantially perpendicular to a proximal portion of the steering column and including a receiver structure that receives the steering column from a first direction, the retainer mechanism being configured to be assembled around the steering column so that movement of the steering column generally opposing the first direction is restricted.

19. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 18, wherein the retainer mechanism includes the spanning member and another retainer element that attaches to the spanning member.

20. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 19, wherein the spanning member and the other retainer element are formed at least substantially of plastic.

21. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 18, wherein the retainer mechanism includes at least two retainer elements configured to be assembled around the spanning member.

22. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 18, wherein the receiver structure is an opening.

23. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 21, wherein the retainer elements are configured to be assembled manually, without the use of tools.

24. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 23, wherein the retainer mechanism includes a tab and a slot, the tab including a flange, and wherein the tab is configured to be urged into the slot so that the flange restricts removal of the tab from the slot.

25. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 21, wherein the retainer elements are adapted to produce a visual indication that the retainer elements are assembled properly.

26. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 21, wherein the retainer elements are adapted to produce an audible indication that the retainer elements are assembled properly.

27. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 21, wherein the retainer elements are adapted to be snap-fit together.

28. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 21, wherein the retainer elements include a plurality of tabs and at least a corresponding plurality of slots.

29. A children's ride-on vehicle, comprising:

a body;

a plurality of wheels mounted rotatably on the body and including at least one steerable wheel; and

a steering assembly coupled to the body and configured to steer the steerable wheel, the steering assembly comprising:

a steering mechanism configured to interface with a child steering the vehicle,

a steering column coupled to the steering mechanism and defining a proximal portion and a shoulder extending from the proximal portion, and

a linkage mechanism that couples the steering column to the steerable wheel, the linkage mechanism including a spanning member and a retainer mechanism, the spanning member extending at least substantially perpendicular to the proximal portion of the steering column and defining opposing first and second flanking regions adjacent the spanning member and also defining a receiver structure configured to receive the steering column in a direction from the first flanking region, the retainer mechanism having a surface disposed in the first flanking region and configured to engage the shoulder if the steering column is pulled generally opposite to the direction.

30. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 29, wherein the first flanking region is generally upward from the spanning member.

31. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 29, wherein the retainer mechanism includes a plurality of retainer elements, and wherein the retainer mechanism is configured to be assembled by urging the retainer elements together translationally.

32. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 29, wherein the steering column includes a distal segment that extends distally from the shoulder, and wherein the distal segment is configured to be received by the receiver structure.

33. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 32, wherein the distal segment defines a distal end of the steering column, and wherein the distal end is exposed when the retainer mechanism is assembled.

34. The children's ride-on vehicle of claim 29, wherein the surface of the retainer mechanism is configured to engage the shoulder only when the steering mechanism is urged generally opposite to the direction.